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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6225

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

DEA HQS WASHDC

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD AND J112

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, TH

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS - SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT (SECTION A) FOR THE PERIOD
JULY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 1975

REF: (A) STATE 290355; (B) STATE 286666

SUMMARY. PART I OF THIS TELEGRAM CONTAINS AN OUTLINE OF SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE THAI ANTI-NARCOTICS PROGRAM DURING THE SECOND HALF OF 1975. MATERIAL IS PRESENTED UNDER SECTIONS TITLED ENFORCEMENT, SEIZURE STATISTICS, RTG PERSONNEL CHANGES, REGIONAL COOPERATION, UNITED NATIONS PROGRAM FOR DRUG ABUSE CONTROL, AND TREATMENT/REHABILITATION/ EDUCATION. PART II CONTAINS A STATUS REPORT ON EACH SECTION 482 FUNDED PROJECT IN THAILAND. END SUMMARY

PART I - HIGHLIGHTS OF SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS DURING THE PERIOD JULY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 1975.

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1. ENFORCEMENT: ROYAL THAI GOVERNMENT (RTG) ENFORCE-

MENT EFFORTS IN THE LAST HALF OF 1975 WERE MODERATELY SUCCESSFUL. ALTHOUGH MANY OF THE NARCOTICS SEIZURES INVOLVED SMALL AMOUNTS, THERE WERE SEVERAL SIGNIFICANT OPERATIONS AND TWO VERY LARGE SEIZURES. FOR EXAMPLE:

-- THE FIRST HEROIN LAB EVER SEIZED IN SOUTHERN THAILAND WAS LOCATED ON AUGUST 10 ON A RUBBER PLANTATION IN SADAQ DISTRICT OF SONGKHLA PROVINCE, LESS THAN TEN MILES FROM THE MALAYSIAN BORDER. 52 KILOGRAMS (KGS) OF OPIUM, 9 KGS OF MORPHINE IN SOLUTION, AN OUNCE OF HEROIN #4 AND CONSIDERABLE QUANTITIES OF PRECURSOR CHEMICALS AND LAB EQUIPMENT WERE SEIZED. THE RAID WAS CONDUCTED BY SNO PERSONNEL, ACTING ON DEA INFORMATION.

-- ON SEPTEMBER 18 AND 19, SNO AND RTG OFFICERS AND MEN AT BANGKOK AND HAD YAI ARRESTED THREE INDIVIDUALS AND SEIZED APPROXIMATELY 12.5 KGS OF HEROIN #3 THAT WAS INTENDED FOR CUSTOMERS IN AMSTERDAM. THE HEROIN WAS CONCEALED IN FALSE LININGS OF SUITCASES AND CONTAINERS OF SAUSAGES. THE CASE RESULTED FROM BORDER PATROL POLICE (BPP) INFORMATION. THIS CASE BROUGHT TO LIGHT AN INTERESTING VARIATION OF DRUG TRAFFICKING PATTERNS. THE SMUGGLING RING, WITH MEMBERS FROM SINGAPORE, MALAYSIA AND THAILAND, WOULD IMPORT RAW OPIUM FROM THE TRI-BORDER GROWING AREA FOR PROCESSING AT A REFINERY LOCATED IN NORTHERN MALAYSIA. REFINED HEROIN (MOSTLY #3) WAS RETURNED TO SOUTHERN THAILAND AND THEN COURIER DELIVERED TO BANGKOK FOR EXPORT, VIA COMMERCIAL AIR FLIGHT, TO CUSTOMERS IN EUROPE.

-- ON SEPTEMBER 24, A BORDER PATROL POLICE (BPP) TEAM, ACTING ON ITS OWN INFORMATION, INTERDICITED A 19 HORSE CARAVAN IN CHIANG MAI PROVINCE AND SEIZED 360 KGS OF AMMONIUM CHLORIDE, 315 POUNDS OF LIME AND 15 GALLONS OF HYDROCHLORIC ACID. THE CHEMICALS, APPARENTLY HEADED FOR A LAB ON THE THAI/BURMA BORDER, WERE IN SUFFICIENT QUANTITY TO CONVERT 500 TO 600 POUNDS OF RAW OPIUM INTO MORPHINE BASE.

-- ONE OF THE LARGEST HEROIN SEIZURES IN RECENT TIMES WAS CONFIDENTIAL

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MADE IN BANGKOK ON OCTOBER 17 WHEN AN ALERT U.S. MILITARY CUSTOMS INSPECTOR DISCOVERED 47 KGS OF #4 HEROIN IN THE HOUSEHOLD EFFECTS OF U.S. ARMY SP. 5 JASPER MYRICK. MYRICK'S CASE IS NOW AWAITING THAI LEGAL ACTION.

-- THE FIRST SUCCESSFUL OPERATION AGAINST TRAWLER RESULTED IN THE SEIZURE OF 114 KILOS OF 999 BRAND MORPHINE BASE ON DECEMBER 19. THAI MARINE POLICE, ASSISTED BY DEA,

UNCOVERED THE MORPHINE ON A SMALL ISLAND IN THE GULF OF SIAM. POLICE HAD BEEN TRACKING THE HONG KONG BOUND TRAWLER ALONG THE COAST OF SOUTHERN THAILAND, WHEN THE TRAWLER OFF-LOADED THE NARCOTICS AND HEADED FOR A THAI MAINLAND PORT TO AVOID A STORM. SINCE THE TRAWLER NO LONGER HAD NARCOTICS ON BOARD, IT WAS NOT FEASIBLE TO UNDERTAKE LEGAL ACTION AGAINST ITS MASTER OR CREW.

2. SEIZURE STATISTICS: CENTRAL NARCOTICS BUREAU (CNB) STATISTICS SHOW THE FOLLOWING AMOUNTS OF NARCOTICS SEIZED DURING JANUARY THROUGH AUGUST 1975 (FIGURES FOR SEPT- DECEMBER ARE NOT YET AVAILABLE.)

OPIUM 1,676 KGS
MORPHINE 40 KGS
HEROIN 87 KGS

FIGURES FOR THE SAME PERIOD IN 1974 ARE PRESENTED BELOW FOR COMPARISON PURPOSES:

OPIUM 1,046 KGS
MORPHINE 52 KGS
HEROIN 211 KGS

(NOTE: THE ACCURACY OF CNB FIGURES IS OFTEN AFFECTED BY (1) INCLUSION OF CONTAINER WEIGHT; (2) NO FOLLOWUP COR- RECTION OF ESTIMATES IN THE ORIGINAL REPORT; (3) FAILURE OF THE RTG NATION-WIDE REPORTING SYSTEM TO REPORT ACCURATELY AND COMPLETELY TO THE CNB; AND (4) PROBABLE CONFUSION AS TO THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MORPHINE AND HEROIN. CNB FIGURES GENERALLY TEND TO BE ON THE LOW SIDE.)

3. RTG PERSONNEL CHANGES: TWO KEY RTG PERSONNEL CHANGES
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SHOULD BE HELPFUL FOR THE ANTI-NARCOTICS EFFORT:

-- THE RTG CABINET APPOINTED POLICE LT. GENERAL SISUK MAHINTHARATHEP AS THE SUCCESSOR TO POLICE DIRECTOR GENERAL PHOT PHEKANAN, WHO RETIRED ON OCTOBER 1. SISUK IS A CAREER OFFICER WHO IS RESPECTED BY HIS SUBORDINATES AND APPEARS TO BE APOLITICAL. INDICATIONS ARE THAT THIS IS AN INTERIM APPOINTMENT, SINCE THE POLITICAL STRUGGLE FOR CONTROL OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT CONTINUES BETWEEN VARIOUS FACTIONS OF THE PARLIAMENT, THE MILITARY AND THE BUREAU- CRACY. AMBASSADOR WHITEHOUSE CALLED ON GENERAL SISUK ON NOVEMBER 12 AND EXPRESSED OUR APPRECIATION OF THE WORK OF THE POLICE NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION CENTER AND OUR INTEREST IN CONTINUED CLOSE COOPERATION ON NARCOTICS MATTERS. (COMMENT: SISUK, ALTHOUGH NOT A STRONG LEADER,

IS KNOWN TO BE AN HONEST, HIGHLY PROFESSIONAL POLICE OFFICER. FROM THE STANDPOINT OF NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT, HE LOOKS ESPECIALLY GOOD WHEN COMPARED WITH HIS PREDECESSOR, PHOT PHEKKANAN.)

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-- ANOTHER WELCOME CHANGE WAS THE REMOVAL OF ARUN ITSARAPHAKDI FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF THE PUBLIC PROSECUTOR IN AUGUST (BANGKOK 18411). ARUN WAS IN LARGE PART RESPONSIBLE FOR THE RELEASE FROM CUSTODY OF MAJOR NARCOTICS TRAFFICKERS POONSIRI CHANYASAK IN 1974 (BANGKOK 10812, JULY 1974) AND SUKRI SUKRIPHIROM LAST JUNE (BANGKOK 14971). HIS REMOVAL AND POSSIBLE PROSECUTION FOR HIS ACTIONS WHILE IN OFFICE SHOULD IMPROVE THE CLIMATE FOR NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT AND HAS GIVEN POLICE MORALE A BOOST.

4. PRAMUAN RELEASED: POLICE COLONEL PRAMUAN WANIKAPHAN, SENTENCED IN APRIL 1973 TO 25 YEARS IN PRISTN FOR NARCOTICS-RELATED CORRUPTION, WAS RELEASED UNDER AN AMNESTY PROGRAM ON THE KING'S BIRTHDAY, DECEMBER 5. PRAMUAN, WHO WAS A FORMER HEAD OF THE POLICE

ANTI-NARCOTICS CENTER, WAS CHARGED WITH TAKING BRIBES FROM
NARCOTICS TRAFFICKERS BUT NOT WITH TRAFFICKING. SINCE
HE WAS SENTENCEE UNDER THE FORMER INTERIM CONSTITUTION
WITHOUT DUE PROCESS OF LAW, HE WAS CONSIDERED ELIGIBLE
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FOR RELEASE UNDER THE TERMS OF THE AMNESTY. SINCE PRAMUAN
WILL BE UNABLE TO REJOIN THE POLICE FORCE, HIS RELEASE
WILL HAVE LITTLE DIRECT IMPACT ON NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT,
BUT IT WILL BE SEEN BY MANY POLICE OFFICERS AS FURTHER
EVIDENCE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S UNWILLINGNESS TO TAKE ALL
POSSIBLE ACTION TO KEEP PEOPLE SUCH AS PRAMUAN UNDER
DETENTION.

5. REGIONAL COOPERATION: THE RTG CONTINUES TO PLAY AN
ACTIVE ROLE IN SUPPORTING EFFORTS FOR IMPROVED REGIONAL
COOPERATION ON NARCOTICS MATTERS. POLICE MAJOR GENERAL

PHAO SARASIN, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE CNB, ATTENDED THE
INTERPOL MEETING IN BURNOS AIRES IN OCTOBER AND ALSO LED
A DELEGATION IN NOVEMBER TO THE UN SPONSORED "SECOND MEET-
ING OF OPERATIONAL HEADS OF NATIONAL NARCOTICS LAW ENFORCE-
MENT AGENCIES (FAR EAST REGION)", HELD IN JAKARTA. A RTG
DELEGATION ATTENDED THE 26TH COLOMBO PLAN CONSULTATIVE
MEETING IN COLOMBO IN NOVEMBER, WHERE THE DELEGATION
MADE A STRONG SUPPORTING STATEMENT TO EXTEND THE DRUG
ADVISORY PROGRAM. (COMMENT: RTG OFFICIALS APPEAR
TO HAVE OVERCOME THEIR CONCERN THAT THERE WOULD BE OVER-
LAPPING RESPONSIBILITIES BETWEEN REGIONAL EFFORTS OF THE
COLOMBO PLAN AND THE UN. POLICE OFFICERS, HOWEVER, REMAIN
DISTURBED THAT THE UN CONFERENCE DID NOT INVITE THE U.S.
TO PARTICIPATE THIS YEAR. AT THE 1974 UN CONFERENCE,
IT HAD BEEN RECOMMENDED THAT THE U.S. BE INVITED TO
FUTURE MEETINGS, SINCE IT PLAYED AN ACTIVE ROLE IN
THE REGION.)

6. UNITED NATIONS PROGRAM FOR DRUG ABUSE CONTROL (UNPDAC):
THE UNITED NATIONS/THAI PROGRAM FOR DRUG ABUSE CONTROL IS
AT THE MID-POINT IN ITS FIVE YEAR LIFE. FROM OCTOBER 1-23
AN INDEPENDENT EVALUATION TEAM VISITED THAILAND TO EXAMINE
UNPDAC RESULTS TO DATE AND TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS
FOR THE FUTURE (BANGKOK 26963). THE EVALUATION REPORT
CONTAINING THE TEAM'S CONCLUSIONS WAS GENERALLY POSITIVE
WITH REGARD TO THE CROP SUBSTITUTION ELEMENT OF THE
PROGRAM: "WE ARE UNANIMOUS IN OUR CONCLUSION THAT THE
MAJOR COMPONENT OF THE PROGRAMME (I.E., CROP SUBSTITUTION)
SHOWS VERY DEFINITE AND ENCOURAGING SIGNS OF BEING ABLE TO
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REPLACE OPIUM CULTIVATION PROVIDED IT IS TAKEN FORWARD IN A CONSTRUCTIVE MANNER AT THE RIGHT TIME WITH COURAGE AND DETERMINATION AND THAT SUFFICIENT RESOURCES OVERALL ARE DEVOTED TO THE TASK."

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE REPORT CONCLUDED THAT THE TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION SECTOR OF THE PROGRAM WAS NOT WORKING PROPERLY AND PROPOSED THAT THIS SECTOR BE REALIGNED TO FOCUS ONLY ON HIGHLAND VILLAGES.

THE MOST SIGNIFICANT ASPECT OF THE EVALUATION REPORT WAS ITS CLEAR CALL FOR MORE DIRECT RTG INVOLVEMENT IN THE

PROJECT. WITHOUT THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE RTG, THE FUTURE IMPLEMENTATION AND EXPANSION OF THE FIVE YEAR PILOT PROJECT IS IN DOUBT. SEVERAL OF THE MORE IMPORTANT RECOMMENDATIONS ARE:

-- THE RTG IS INVITED TO CONSIDER THE PROBLEM OF PROVIDING A "CONSTITUTIONAL BASE" FOR THE PROGRAM-- I.E., TO PROVIDE IT WITH A CENTRAL POINT OF SUPERVISION AND, PRESUMABLY, TO DEFEND IT AS NECESSARY. THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE IS MENTIONED AS AN APPROPRIATE HOME FOR THE PROGRAM.

-- NOTING THAT THE RTG HAS "NO PARTICULAR PLANS AIMED AT MARKETING OPIUM REPLACEMENT CROPS BEYOND NORMAL COMMERCIAL ARRANGEMENTS," THE REPORT SUGGESTS THAT THE RTG SHOULD DEVOTE ITS ATTENTION TO THE MARKETING PROBLEM AT LEAST FOR THE NEXT FEW YEARS.

-- THE REPORT RECOMMENDS THAT THE RTG PREPARE A PLAN FOR THE PHASED DEVELOPMENT OF THE CURRENT PILOT PROJECT SO THAT THERE WILL BE NO LOSS OF MOMENTUM WHEN THE MOMENT COMES FOR EXTENSION OF THE PROJECT.

-- THE RTG IS INVITED TO DRAW UP A PLAN FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT IN THE VILLAGES WHEN EACH VILLAGE HAS APPROPRIATE ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF INCOME.

-- THE RTG IS INVITED TO -GET TO SERIOUS GRIPS" WITH THE IMPORTANT ISSUE OF LAND TENURE IN THE HIGHLANDS "WITHOUT CONFIDENTIAL

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DELAY."

THE RTG REACTION TO THE UNPDAC REPORT IS ENCOURAGING. THE RTG APPEARS TO BE READY TO PUT ITS OWN PERSONNEL AND

BUDGET INTO EXPANDING THE PROJECT. DURING THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 8, RTG BUDGET BUREAU OFFICIALS AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION (DTEC) VISITED UNPDAC KEY VILLAGES IN CHIANG MAI PROVINCE AND DECIDED THAT THEY WOULD ACTIVELY SUPPORT THE PROJECT. IAN WILLIAMS, UNPDAC PROJECT DIRECTOR, HAS BEEN REQUESTED TO DRAW UP A WORK PLAN FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS THAT WOULD EXPAND THE PROJECT BY STAGES TO 120 MORE OPIUM PRODUCING VILLAGES IN THE NORTH. UNDER THE PLAN, UNPDAC WILL CONTINUE TO ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM WHILE THE RTG PROVIDES PERSONNEL (FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE) AND FUNDS FROM ITS BUDGET.

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7. OTHER UNPDAC DEVELOPMENTS:

-- THE UNPDAC CROP SUBSTITUTION AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM IS CONCENTRATING ON FOUR CROPS FOR EXTENSION WORKTHIS SEASON: (A) RED KIDNEY BEANS - THIRTY TONS HAVE BEEN PLANTED THIS FALL IN THE UN KEY AREAS (ABOUT 15 TONS WERE PLANTED LAST YEAR). IN THE KEY VILLAGE OF MAE THO

ABOUT 12 TONS HAVE BEEN PLANTED, AND VILLAGERS APPEAR ENTHUSIASTIC AFTER LAST YEAR'S GOOD RESULTS. THE MARKET FOR THE BEANS THIS YEAR, HOWEVER, IS UNCERTAIN BECAUSE NORTHERN THAI HAVE STARTED GROWING THE BEANS IN THE VALLEYS, AND IT IS NOT CLEAR WHAT THE IMPACT WILL BE ON THE OVERALL SUPPLY: (B) COFFEE - ABOUT 200,000 COFFEE TREES OF THE ARABICA VARIETY HAVE BEEN PLANTED IN KEY AREAS. COFFEE APPEARS TO HAVE GOOD POTENTIAL IN THE HIGHLANDS (BANGKOK A-188, PG. 10) AND UNPDAC HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO SUPPLY ENOUGH COFFEE PLANTS TO MEET DEMAND; (C) WHEAT AND BARLEY - BREWERY OWNERS HAVE EXPRESSED INTEREST IN BUYING BARLEY GROWN IN THE HIGHLANDS; (D) VEGETABLE AND FLOWER SEED PRODUCTION -
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DESSERT SEED COMPANY OF CALIFORNIA IS INTERESTED IN THIS PROJECT. ASSUMING THAT THERE IS PROPER QUALITY CONTROL, DESSERT SEED WILL BUY EVERYTHING PRODUCED.

-- ACCORDING TO RICHARD MANN, UNPDAC DIRECTOR IN CHIANG MAI, THERE WILL BE A 30-40 PERCENT REDUCTION IN POPPY CULTIVATION THIS YEAR IN THE KEY AREAS. THIS IS IN CONTRAST TO WHAT MOST OBSERVERS BELIEVE WILL BE AN OVERALL INCREASE IN THE SIZE OF THIS SEASON'S POPPY CROP.

8. TREATMENT/REHABILITATION/EDUCATION:

-- THE ABBOT OF WAT THAM KRA BOK, PHRA CHAMRUN PANCHAN, RECEIVED THE 1975 RAMON MAGSAYSAY AWARD FOR PUBLIC SERVICE IN AUGUST. THE AWARDS COMMITTEE NOTED IN ITS ANNOUNCEMENT: "SOME WESTERN ORIENTED DOCTORS STILL DISMISS THE VALUE OF TREATMENT AT WAT THAM KRA BOK. THERE HAVE BEEN REVERSIONS AND A FEW DEATHS RESULTING FROM TERMINAL CASES, VIOLATION OF DIETY RESTRICTIONS AND SUICIDE...YET FOR THE GREAT MAJORITY OF HIS ADDICTED COUNTRYMEN AND SOME FOREIGNERS...PHRA CHAMRUN OFFERS RELEASE FROM DRUG ENSLAVEMENT." (BANGKOK POST, AUGUST 13, 1975.) ALONG WITH THE AWARD GOES U.S. DQPNPPP WHICH WILL HELP WITH THE GROWING OPERATING EXPENSES OF THE WAT. (SEE BANGKOK A-118 FOR A DESCRIPTION OF THE TREATMENT AT THAM KRA BOK.)

-- DR. CHEK THANASIRI, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE BANGKOK METROPOLIS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, HAS FINALIZED PLANS FOR A PILOT OUTPATIENT DETOXIFICATION PROJECT IN BANGKOK. THE PILOT PROJECT WILL BE IMPLEMENTED AT ONE OF BANGKOK'S HEALTH CENTERS AND IS EXPECTED TO GET UNDER WAY IN JANUARY 1976. SOME 60,000 BANGKOK RESIDENTS LIVE WITHIN THE AREA COVERED BY THE HEALTH CENTER, AND DRUG ADDICTS WITHIN THAT POPULATION WILL RECEIVE TREATMENT FOR A NOMINAL FEE. THIS WILL BE THE FIRST OUTPATIENT DETOXIFICATION PROGRAM IN THAILAND, AND VISITING U.S. TREATMENT SPECIALISTS HAVE BEEN

IMPRESSED WITH BOTH THE PROJECT AND DR. CHEK AND HIS STAFF
WHO WILL IMPLEMENT IT.

-- EDUCATIONAL EFFORTS CONTINUED DURING THE SECOND HALF OF
1975. COLONEL CHAWALIT YOTMANI OF THE CNB CONTACTED LOCAL
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TELEVISION AND ADVERTISING COMPANIES AND WITH THE ASSISTANCE
OF USIS ARRANGED TO RECEIVED SUPPORT FOR THE PRODUCTION OF
DRUG ABUSE EDUCATIONAL MATERIAL AND FREE TV TIME.

-- INTERVIEWS AND PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY RTG NARCOTICS
OFFICIALS SERVED TO KEEP THE ISSUE OF NARCOTICS BEFORE
THE THAI PUBLIC. FOR EXAMPLE, GENERAL PHAO SARASIN GAVE
A LONG INTERVIEW TO THE THAI LANGUAGE PAPER, PRACHACHART,
IN NOVEMBER. PHAO COVERED ALL ASPECTS OF THE NARCOTICS
PROBLEM IN THAILAND, PAYING SPECIAL ATTENTION TO THE NEED
FOR STRICTER DRUG LAWS IN THAILAND. HE ALSO CALLED
ATTENTION TO THE INCREASING DANGER OF DRUG ADDICTION TO
THAI YOUTH.

PART II - STATUS OF PROJECTS FINANCED WITH SECTION 482 FUNDS.

9. ENFORCEMENT:

A. THAI NATIONAL POLICE DEPARTMENT (TNPD)

-- REMODELING AT THE SAM PHRAN POLICE ACADEMY VIDEO PRO-
DUCTION STUDIO HAS BEEN COMPLETED. SOME DELAY HAS BEEN
ENCOUNTERED WITH THE SELECTION OF A CONTRACTOR TO INSTALL
THE DTEC FUNDED CENTRAL AIR CONDITIONING. HOWEVER, INSTALLA-
TION OF THE AIR CONDITIONING AND VIDEO EQUIPMENT SHOULD BE
COMPLETED AND THE STUDIO OPERATIONAL BY EARLY FEBRUARY
1976. VIDEO PLAYERS AND MONITORS HAVE BEEN INSTALLED AT
SAM PHRAN AND IN ALL RECRUIT SCHOOLS. DECISIONS HAVE BEEN
MADE ON SUBJECT MATTER AND A SCHOOL IS CURRENTLY BEING SET
UP TO TRAIN THE MOBILE TEAMS AND RECRUIT SCHOOL INSTRUCTORS.
THE MOBILE VIDEO CAMERA CREW IS READY TO BEGIN SHOOTING
BACKGROUND MATERIAL AND OTHER ON-SITE SUBJECT MATTER.

-- THE DOG SUB-DIVISION IS MAKING PREPARATIONS FOR THE
ARRIVAL OF A U.S. CUSTOMS SPECIALIST IN EARLY JANUARY TO
ASSIST WITH THE SELECTION AND TRAINING OF NARCOTICS
SENSOR DOGS. THIS ACTIVITY WAS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN IN
NOVEMBER, BUT HAD TO BE DELAYED BECAUSE OF FLOODING AT THE
DOG SUB-DIVISION. FOUR PARTICIPANTS (3 TNPD AND 1 CUSTOMS)
COMPLETED A ONE MONTH SENSOR DOG TRAINING COURSE WITH U.S.
CUSTOMS IN THE U.S. AND RETURNED IN NOVEMBER. THE DOG
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SUB-DIVISION IS CURRENTLY WORKING THREE TRAINED NARCOTICS DOGS AND HAS ANOTHER FOUR IN TRAINING. SINCE JUNE, THE DOGS HAVE DETECTED ALMOST ONE KILOGRAM OF HEROIN AND 105 KILOGRAMS OF MARIJUANA IN FIVE SEPARATE CASE, RESULT-ING IN 14 ARRESTS.

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-- THE EDUCATION BUREAU FORMED A NARCOTICS TRAINING SUPPRT CENTER TO COORDINATE ALL TNPD NARCOTICS TRAINING ACTIVITIES. THIS UNIT AND A NEW SUB-DIVISION IS IN THE PROCESS OF BEING DECREED AND WILL PROVIDE THE BASIS FOR CONTINUING RTG SUPPORT FOR THE NARCOTICS TRAINING PROGRAM.

-- THE JUVENILE SUB-DIVISION RECENTLY RAISED FROM 16 TO 40 THE NUMBER OF PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT/ PREVENTION, WORKING PRIMARILY IN THE 600 BANGKOK METROPOLITAN SCHOOLS.

B. CUSTOMS

-- THE CUSTOMS MARINE MAINTENANCE ACTIVITY CONTINUES TO MAKE STEADY PROGRESS. THE PAK NAM REPAIR FACILITY IS IN FULL OPERATION AND EFFORT HAS NOW SHIFTED TO UPGRADING THE MAIN DOCK FACILITY. BASED ON SATISFACTORY IMPROVEMENT IN MARINE MAINTENANCE, WE PROPOSE TO PROCEED WITH PROCUREMENT OF DIESEL POWERED PATROL BOATS IN THE 50 FOOT CLASS.

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POTENTIAL SUPPLIERS IN TAIWAN, KOREA AND JAPAN HAVE BEEN EVALUATED, SPECIFICATIONS ARE BEING PUT IN FINAL FORM AND WE WILL BE REQUESTING PROCUREMENT ACTION SHORTLY.

-- FIVE 23 FOOT PURSUIT BOATS ARRIVED IN AUGUST AND HAVE BEEN OPERATED EXTENSIVELY WITH 130-180 TOTAL HOURS ON EACH ENGINE. ONE MAJOR SEIZURE OF CONTRABAND (NOT NARCOTICS) IN THE GULF OF THAILAND WAS WORTH MORE THAN TWICE THE ACQUISITION VALUE OF THE BOATS.

-- MAJOR ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES ARE TAKING PLACE WITHIN THE DOC. TWO SIGNIFICANT EXAMPLES ARE REVISED OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES FOR THE PRESENTLY INEFFECTIVE 250 MAN CUSTOMS GUARD FORCE, AND THE FORMATION OF A NARCOTICS INVESTIGATION UNIT. NARCOTICS AND CONTRABAND SEIZURES AT DON MUANG AIRPORT HAVE INCREASED AS A RESULT OF MORE INTENSIVE DOC EFFORT.

-- CHANGES IN THE COMPOSITION AND FOCUS OF THE U.S. CUSTOMS ADVISORY TEAM ARE BEING WORKED OUT AND A REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL FULL TIME AND SHORT TERM ADVISORY SKILLS WILL BE FORTHCOMING AFTER JOHN O'LOUGHLIN'S VISIT IN MID-JANUARY.

C. ACCESS ROADS

-- THE RTG HAS TAKEN NO FURTHER ACTION ON THE PREVIOUSLY PROPOSED ACCESS ROADS. WE DO NOT EXPECT ANY FURTHER ACTIVITY IN THIS PROJECT. HOWEVER, WE HAVE KEPT THE DOOR OPEN TO ANY NEW INITIATIVES THAT THE RTG MIGHT PUT FORWARD.

10. CROP/INCOME SUBSTITUTION:

A. HIGHLAND AGRICULTURE RESEARCH AND ZONAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY TO DEVELOP THESE TWO PROJECTS FURTHER HAS BEEN HALTED UNTIL THE RTG ESTABLISHES A CLEAR POLICY AND ASSIGNS A HIGHER PRIORITY TO HIGHLAND DEVELOPMENT AND THE HILLTRIBE PROBLEMS. THE UNFDAC EVALUATION, WHILE FAVORABLE TOWARD THE UNPDAC PILOT APPROACH AND PROGRESS IN CROP REPLACEMENT, ONLY GENERALLY ADDRESSED THE PROBLEMS OF RTG ACTION ON PROJECT EXPANSION AND ENFORCEMENT OF THE

OPIUM GROWING BAN. THERE IS, HOWEVER, A PROPOSAL BEING
DISCUSSED BY THE RTG TO EXPAND THE UNPDAC CONCEPT TO
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120 ADDITIONAL OPIUM GROWING VILLAGES IN THE NORTH (SEE
PARA 6). THERE ARE NO INDICATIONS AT THIS POINT WHETHER
USG ASSISTANCE WILL BE REQUESTED OR WOULD BE APPROPRIATE.
AS PROMISED IN OCTOBER (BANGKOK 21306) WE WILL SUBMIT
BEFORE MARCH 1976 NEW PARAMETERS AND POSSIBLE FUNDING FOR
THESE ACTIVITIES.

B. PRESERVED FOOD

THE RTG IS WORKING ON FINAL SITE SELECTION FOR THE INSTALLA-
TION OF THE SECOND USG FUNDED SET OF CANNING EQUIPMENT.
THE RTG MAY REQUEST U.S. SUPPORT FOR A MARKETING SURVEY/
ECONOMIC FEASIBILITY STUDY AND SHORT TERM AGRO-INDUSTRIAL
MARKETING ADVISORY ASSISTANCE TO ENSURE THAT THE PLANT SITE
IS IN CLOSE SUPPORT OF AND ECONOMICALLY ACCESSIBLE TO A
MAXIMUM NUMBER OF HILLTRIBE FAMILIES PARTICIPATING IN
CROP REPLACEMENT ACTIVITIES.

C. TRAIL IMPROVEMENT

U.S. INTEREST IN SUPPORTING A TRAIL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
WHICH BENEFITS ONGOING CROP REPLACEMENT ACTIVITIES HAS
BEEN DISCUSSED WITH UNPDAC, THE MANAGER OF THE
KING'S HILLTRIBE PROJECT AND OTHER RTG REPRESENTATIVES.
TO DATE, THE IDEA HAS NOT BEEN PICKED UP. CONSIDERING THE
VARIED IDEAS ON THE SUBJECT AND THE FACT THAT SOME
SERVICE TRACKS ARE ALREADY BEING SUPPORTED BY THE RTG,
THE KING'S HILLTRIBE PROJECT AND UNPDAC, WE DO NOT
EXPECT TQIS ACTIVITY TO GO FORWARD. HOWEVER, WE DO PLAN
TO LEAPE THE DOOR OPEN TO RESPOND TO RTG INITIATIVES IN
THIS AREA.

11. UNDA PLANT SUBSTITUTION PROGRAM: DURING THE SECOND
HALF OF 1975, USDA FUNDED A RESEARCH PROJECT ON MULTIPLE
CROPPING, DESIGNED TO FI D SUITABLE CROP ROTATIONS FOR
THAILAND'S HILLTRIBE FARMERS. AMBASSADOR WHITEHOUSE
OFFICIALLY PRESENTED THE FIRST PAYMENT ON JULY 17. THE
TOTAL CONTRACT IS FOR \$149,000. A SECOND PROJECT-- LAC
CULTIVATION--WAS ALSO FUNDED DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD.
THE \$48,420 PROJECT WILL BE CONDUCTED BY KASETSART UNIVERSITY.
TWO NEW PROJECTS WERE NEGOTIATED AND APPROVED BY THE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

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MISSION DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD. THE PROJECTS ARE TEA (\$114,000), TO BE CONDUCTED BY CHIANG MAI UNIVERSITY, AND ORNAMENTAL PLANTS (\$146,000), TO BE CONDUCTED ALSO BY CHIANG MAI UNIVERSITY. ASSUMING THESE PROJECTS WILL BE FUNDED, THERE WILL BE 14 CROP SUBSTITUTION RESEARCH PROJECTS UNDER WAY WITH A VALUE OF \$1,280,000.

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